**Joshua 5 of 5**

**Famous last words!**

**Privilege and Responsibility - Handing on the baton - Renewed covenant**

**Read Chapters 23 and 24**

Compare Ch 23 with Joshua Ch 1 e.g. ch 1;1-8 and ch 23;6-8

How is Joshua described in Ch1;1 and Ch 24;29? (Moses servant. God’s servant)

What does that tell us about Joshua’s walk before God?

Word study "**Cling**" (dâbaq)

Ch 23:6-8 translated (NIV Hold Fast)

Genesis 2;24 (NIV be united)

Ch 23;12 (NIV ally yourselves) Note reference to ‘marriage’

What does that tell us about our relationship with God?

Note: Joshua 23;11 "So be very careful, therefore, to *love* the Lord your God."

Ch 23;14

We too must "go the way of all the earth". Can we aspire to say ‘not one promise has failed’?

Ch 24

Commentators point out that the shape of the chapter reflects the form of a treaty between an overlord and his people common in the ancient Near-Eastern world.

Place study: Shechem Joshua 24;26-27

Genesis 12;1-6 The Place of Promise and Covenant

Genesis 33;18-19 The Place of Worship

Genesis 35;1-5 The Place where all foreign gods were buried.

Why might Joshua have chosen to address the people at Shechem?

Are there places that have special significance to you?

Ch 24;2 onwards is a reminder of God's faithfulness. How many times does God use the word “I”?

Ch24;14 The word ‘*Now*’ picks up the description of promises and privileges, and applies responsibility

1. what may have been the 'gods' that have been worshipped in past generations - our parents or grand parents, or way back ...
2. What may be the gods of those we live amongst today, in Bristol, in our streets, schools, workplaces?

The people answered, "We will serve The Lord". What does that look like for us today?

Hebrews 9;14-15 and Hebrews 10;19-25(read 10;19-25 in The Message if you have a copy)

**Privilege** & **Responsibility**

From one angle the book of Joshua is all about the faithfulness of God. When God says he will do something, his word is his oath, and he sees that promise through to fulfillment. Joshua represents the first generation of Israelites who have to rely on the written Word,

From the other angle, the book of Joshua is about the necessity of obedience as the required human response.

Joshua in Hebrew is equivalent to Jesus in Greek. What commands have we have received from our ‘Joshua’? e.g. Matthew 28;16

In the light of the book of Joshua, what is our response?